

## Comparison of House and Senate Prescription Drug Bills

	HOUSE	SENATE
How much will it cost you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will pay a premium of about \$35 each month and a \$250 annual deductible.</li> <li>After the \$250 deductible, you pay 20% of drug costs up to \$2,000.</li> <li>There is a gap in coverage until drug costs go over \$4,900. Then Medicare pays 100%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will pay a premium of about \$35 each month and a \$275 annual deductible.</li> <li>After the \$275 deductible, you pay 50% of drug costs up to \$4,500.</li> <li>There is a gap in coverage until drug costs go over \$5,813. Then Medicare pays 90% and you pay 10%.</li> </ul>
What happens in the gap in coverage known as the "Doughnut Hole?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You continue to pay the monthly premium <u>and</u> you pay 100% of drug costs from \$2,001 to \$4,900.</li> <li>47% of all Medicare beneficiaries fall into this gap.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You continue to pay the monthly premium <u>and</u> you pay 100% of drug costs from \$4,501 to \$5,813.</li> <li>12% of all Medicare beneficiaries fall into this gap.</li> </ul>
Will it guarantee lower Rx prices?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. The bill prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating lower drug prices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. The bill prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating lower drug prices.</li> </ul>
What happens to Medicare in the future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan changes Medicare as we know it.</li> <li>In 2010, Medicare will be forced to compete with private plans such as HMOs.</li> <li>Seniors that stay with traditional Medicare could face much higher premiums – as much as 25%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no similar provision.</li> </ul>
When will it start?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not until 2006.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not Until 2006.</li> </ul>